

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system ~~form~~ of managing
- 2 transactions in a research consortium comprising: a membership register for
- 3 identifying consortium members; a research database to store entries by
- 4 members and time-stamp means for identifying submission of research; a
- 5 means for resolving a research substance solution into a set of
- 6 characteristics; a database means for storing a set of criteria; said criteria
- 7 being measured by presence or absence of a characteristic; comparison
- 8 means to determine if characteristics of a research solution meet a pre-
- 9 defined set of criteria; an interface for communication with a partner having an
- 10 agreement with said consortium to compensate said consortium for use of
- 11 said research solution; a report register for receiving reports from said partner
- 12 to receive reports defining compensatable uses of the research solution; and
- 13 a rule-based account generator for processing said report data, said rule-
- 14 based account generator incorporating a rule defining share of each
- 15 participant of compensation due to said consortium based on said report data,
- 16 said rule-based account generator generating a result comprising an amount
- 17 of compensation due to a participant in accordance with the rule; said rule
- 18 establishing a first level of compensation for one designated member and a

19 second level of compensation for each member other than the designated
20 member, and a central computer coordinating communications in said system.

1 2. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein said interface comprises
2 means to receive transmissions indicative of electronic funds transfers to said
3 consortium from said partner; and wherein said rule-based generator
4 comprises means for generating instructions to instruct a transfer to a
5 participant in accordance with said result.

1 3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a side deal
2 register to store side deal arrangements between a participant and at least
3 one other participant, said side deal register being coupled to said rule-based
4 register to modify said rule in accordance with a side deal.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, comprising a lead
2 institution terminal for operation by a lead institution, said [CPU] central
3 computer providing a privilege to said lead institution to characterize research
4 submissions according to characteristics.

1 5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a
2 telecommunications routine for providing an on-line meeting of said
3 participants.

1 6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, further comprising a privilege
2 register for providing access to selected entries in said research database to
3 selected populations.

1 7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein selected populations
2 comprise consortium members, the public, consortium negotiating partners
3 and consortium partners.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said rule
2 comprises $R_w (100\% - (N-1\%)) \times I$ where R_w is a winner's share, N is the total
3 number of participants in the consortium, and I is the amount of income
4 accruing from the research solution and wherein $R_p = I/(N-1)$, where R_p is a
5 participant's share, and wherein N does not exceed 51.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a membership register
2 wherein members may vote to admit other members and wherein members
3 may vote to remove members.

1 10. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein said membership
2 register registers a result corresponding to an invitation for potential members
3 receiving a vote of at least $N-1$ where N is the number of current members.

1 11. (Original) A system according to claim 9, wherein said membership
2 register will register a result equivalent expulsion of a member in response to
3 a vote of not less than $N-1$ where N is the total number of current members.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for creating and exploiting a research
2 solution comprising: establishing a consortium consisting of a set of members,
3 providing a network for communication among all members, authorizing
4 access by members of the consortium to the network and protecting the
5 network from non-members, communicating by at least a member to provide

6 data to said network, exchanging data between at least one member and
7 another member; tracking when and by whom each provision of data is
8 contributed, identifying a solution in data in said network; earning income
9 based on said solution; and allocating said income among said members in
10 accordance with a predetermined rule, said predetermined rule establishing a
11 first level of compensation for one designated member and a second level of
12 compensation for each member other than the designated member.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising providing
2 a membership rule for adding new members and eliminating members and
3 selectively adding or eliminating~~ing~~ members in accordance with the
4 membership rule.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein allocating comprises calculating
2 an amount due to a member utilizing the predetermined rule.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said consortium is a medical
2 research consortium and wherein said data inputs are proprietary to the
3 consortium.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein one member ~~in~~ is
2 characterized as a winner based upon correspondence of input of the
3 member with a solution and wherein the winner is allocated a winner's share
4 in accordance with the rule.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein members other than the winner
2 are characterized as participants and wherein each participant is allocated a
3 participant's share in accordance with the rule.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said rule comprises
2 $R = (100\% - (N - 1\%)) \times I$ where R_w is a winner's share, N is the total number of
3 members in the consortium, and I is the amount of income accruing from the
4 research solution and wherein $R_p = I / (N - 1)$, where R_p is a participant's share
5 and wherein N does not exceed 51.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein providing a network comprises
2 providing a virtual private network.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising distributing income to
2 said members by means of electronic funds transfers; and wherein said
3 network comprises a rule-based generator programmed in accordance with
4 said rule to generate instructions to instruct a transfer to a member.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising maintaining a side
2 deal register to store side deal arrangements between members and adjusting
3 the calculation of said rule-based generator to modify said rule in accordance
4 with a side deal.

1 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising
2 conducting an on-line meeting of said members on said network.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising a
2 providing access to selected entries in said network to selected populations.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein selected populations comprise
2 consortium members, the public, negotiating entities and consortium partners.

1 25. (Original) A method according to claim 24 further adding or dropping a
2 member in response to a vote of not less than $N-1$ where N is the total
3 number of current members.